

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute claims 1-16 as follows. As required by 37 C.F.R. §1.121, marked copies of the claims showing amendments for claims 1-16 are listed below.

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1. (Amended) An aqueous coating material comprising a product formed by mixing with one another

(A1) at least one substantially water-free base color that imparts at least one of color and effect comprising

(a11) at least one binder, wherein the binder is optionally water-soluble or water-dispersible,

(a12) at least one pigment that provides at least one of color and effect, and

(a13) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water-miscible,

and optionally, at least one of

(a14) at least one crosslinking agent,

(a15) at least one auxiliary, and

(a16) at least one additive;

(A2) at least one aqueous color-imparting base color comprising

(a21) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder,

(a22) at least one color pigment, and

(a23) water,

and optionally, at least one of

(a24) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water-miscible,

(a25) at least one crosslinking agent,

(a26) at least one auxiliary, and

(a27) at least one additive;

and

(B) at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish comprising

(b1) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder, and

(b2) water,

and optionally, at least one of

(b3) at least one crosslinking agent,

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(b4) at least one auxiliary, and

(b5) at least one additive;

and optionally

(C) a pigment-free aqueous medium comprising

(c1) at least one rheology control additive;

optionally, with the proviso that at least one of the additives (a16), (a27), and (b5) further comprise at least one rheology control additive (c1).

2. (Amended) A modular system for preparing aqueous coating materials comprising

(I) at least one substantially water-free module that provides at least one of color and effect comprising

(A1) at least one base color that substantially imparts at least one of color and effect comprising

(a11) at least one binder, wherein the binder is optionally water-soluble or water-dispersible,

(a12) at least one pigment that imparts at least one of color and effect, and

(a13) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water-miscible,

and optionally, at least one of

(a14) at least one crosslinking agent,

(a15) at least one auxiliary, and

(a16) at least one additive;

(II) at least one aqueous color module comprising

(A2) at least one aqueous color-imparting base color comprising

(a21) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder,

(a22) at least one color pigment, and

(a23) water,

and optionally, at least one of

(a24) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water-miscible,

(a25) at least one crosslinking agent,

(a26) at least one auxiliary, and

(a27) at least one additive;

and

(III) at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module comprising

(B) at least one pigment-free mixing varnish comprising

(b1) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder, and

(b2) water,

and optionally, at least one of

(b3) at least one crosslinking agent,

(b4) at least one auxiliary, and

(b5) at least one additive;

and optionally,

(IV) at least one pigment-free rheology module comprising

(C) an aqueous medium comprising

(c1) at least one rheology control additive;

optionally, with the proviso that at least one of the additives (a16), (a27), and (b5) further comprise at least one rheology control additive (c1).

3. (Amended) A process for preparing an aqueous coating material with precisely defined shade and optical effect comprising mixing modules differing in material composition and function and stored separately from one another, shortly before application of the coating material, wherein the modules comprise

(I) at least one substantially water-free module that provides at least one of color and effect comprising

(A1) at least one substantially water-free base color that imparts at least one of color and effect comprising

(a11) at least one binder, wherein the binder is optionally water-soluble or water-dispersible,

(a12) at least one pigment that imparts at least one of color and effect, and

(a13) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water-miscible,

and optionally, at least one of

(a14) at least one crosslinking agent,

- (a15) at least one auxiliary, and  
(a16) at least one additive;
- (II) at least one aqueous color module comprising
- (A2) at least one aqueous color-imparting base color comprising
- (a21) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder,  
(a22) at least one color pigment, and  
(a23) water,  
and optionally, at least one of
- (a24) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is  
optionally water- miscible,  
(a25) at least one crosslinking agent,  
(a26) at least one auxiliary, and  
(a27) at least one additive;

and

- (III) at least one pigment-free mixing varnish module comprising
- (B) at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish comprising
- (b1) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder, and  
(b2) water,  
and optionally, at least one of
- (b3) at least one crosslinking agent,  
(b4) at least one auxiliary, and  
(b5) at least one additive;

and optionally

- (IV) at least one pigment-free rheology module comprising
- (C) an aqueous medium comprising

(c1) at least one rheology control additive;

optionally, with the proviso that at least one of the additives (a16), (a27), and (b5) further comprise at least one rheology control additive (c1).

4. (Amended) The aqueous coating material of claim 1, wherein the base color (A1) imparts one of i) effect or ii) color and effect.

5. (Amended) The modular system of claim 2, wherein the modular system comprises one of

1. at least one substantially water-free color module (I), at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III),
2. at least one substantially water-free color and effect module (I), at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III), and
3. at least one substantially water-free effect module (I), at least one substantially water-free color module (I), at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III).

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6. (Amended) The coating material of claim 1, wherein the additive (b5) comprises at least one rheology control additive.

7. (Amended) The coating material of claim 1 further comprising the pigment-free, aqueous medium (C), and wherein the rheology control additive (c1) is provided only in the pigment-free, aqueous medium (C).

8. (Amended) The modular system of claim 2, wherein the modular system further comprises the at least one pigment-free rheology module (IV).

9. (Amended) The aqueous coating material of claim 1, wherein the binders (a11), (a21), and (b1) come from the same polymer class.

10. (Amended) The aqueous coating material of claim 9, wherein the binders (a11), (a21), and (b1) are polyurethane resins.

11. (Amended) The aqueous coating material of claim 1, wherein the binders (a21) and (b1), and optionally the binder (a11), comprise functional groups that can be converted into anions by at least one of neutralizing agents and anionic groups.

12. (Amended) A method comprising applying the aqueous coating material of claim 1 to a substrate to provide one of an automotive OEM finish, an automotive refinish, and a plastic coating.
13. (Amended) A method comprising applying the aqueous coating material of claim 1 to a substrate as a basecoat, and applying to the basecoat the aqueous coating material of claim 1 as a solid-color topcoat to provide one of an automotive OEM finish, an automotive refinish, and a plastic coating.
14. (Amended) A coating comprising a coating process product of the aqueous coating material of claim 1.
15. (Amended) The coating of claim 14, wherein the coating comprises a multicoat coating system, wherein the multicoat coating system is formed by a wet-on-wet technique, and wherein the multicoat coating system is at least one of a color coating system and an effect coating system.
16. (Amended) An article comprising the coating of claim 14.

Please insert the following new claims:

17. (New) The modular system of claim 2, wherein the base color (A1) imparts one of i) effect or ii) color and effect.
18. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the base color (A1) imparts one of i) effect or ii) color and effect.
19. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the mixing modules comprise one of
1. at least one substantially water-free color module (I), at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III),
  2. at least one substantially water-free color and effect module (I), at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III), and
  3. at least one substantially water-free effect module (I), at least one substantially water-free color module (I), at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III).
20. (New) The modular system of claim 2, wherein the additive (b5) comprises at least one rheology control additive.
21. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the additive (b5) comprises at least one rheology control additive.
22. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the aqueous coating material further comprises the at least one pigment-free rheology module (IV).
23. (New) The modular system of claim 2, wherein the binders (a11), (a21), and (b1) come from the same polymer class.
24. (New) The modular system of claim 23, wherein the binders (a11), (a21), and (b1) are polyurethane resins.

25. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the binders (a11), (a21), and (b1) come from the same polymer class.
26. (New) The process of claim 25, wherein the binders (a11), (a21), and (b1) are polyurethane resins.
27. (New) The modular system of claim 2, wherein the binders (a21) and (b1), and optionally the binder (a11), comprise functional groups that can be converted into anions by at least one of neutralizing agents and anionic groups.
28. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the binders (a21) and (b1), and optionally the binder (a11), comprise functional groups that can be converted into anions by at least one of neutralizing agents and anionic groups.
29. (New) A method comprising applying the modular system of claim 2 to a substrate to provide one of an automotive OEM finish, an automotive refinish, and a plastic coating.
30. (New) The process of claim 3 further comprising applying the aqueous coating material to a substrate to provide one of an automotive OEM finish, an automotive refinish, and a plastic coating.
31. (New) A method comprising applying the modular system of claim 2 to a substrate as a basecoat, and applying to the basecoat the modular system of claim 2 as a solid-color topcoat to provide one of an automotive OEM finish, an automotive refinish, and a plastic coating.
32. (New) The process of claim 3 further comprising applying the aqueous coating material to a substrate as a basecoat, and applying to the basecoat the aqueous coating material as a solid-color topcoat to provide one of an automotive OEM finish, an automotive refinish, and a plastic coating.

33. (New) A coating comprising a coating process product of the modular system of claim 2.
34. (New) The coating produced by the process of claim 32.
35. (New) An article comprising the coating of claim 15.
36. (New) The coating of claim 33, wherein the coating comprises a multicoat coating system, wherein the multicoat coating system is formed by a wet-on-wet technique, and wherein the multicoat coating system is at least one of a color coating system and an effect coating system.
37. (New) An article comprising the coating of claim 33.
38. (New) An article comprising the coating of claim 36.
39. (New) The coating of claim 34, wherein the coating comprises a multicoat coating system, wherein the multicoat coating system is formed by a wet-on-wet technique, and wherein the multicoat coating system is at least one of a color coating system and an effect coating system.
40. (New) An article comprising the coating of claim 34.
41. (New) An article comprising the coating of claim 39.